



Nebraska Weather and Crops

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Agricultural Summary: For the week ending August 20, 2006, rain and cooler temperatures occurred over the southeastern half of the state for the second week in a row, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service, Nebraska Field Office. Heavy rains in the southeast caused some flooding and left over 3 inches of precipitation across the area. Statewide, crop development continues ahead of normal. Silage harvest had begun in drought damaged areas.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged two degrees below normal for the week. The Northwest District was the warmest with highs in the mid-nineties. Three of eight districts are now near normal precipitation for the growing season as a result of the rain received the last three weeks.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending August 20, 2006

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Aver-Age
<i>Percent</i>				
Topsoil				
Very Short	29	31	11	32
Short	25	36	30	34
Adequate	44	33	58	34
Surplus	2	0	1	0
Subsoil				
Very Short	36	49	20	39
Short	39	37	33	33
Adequate	25	14	47	28
Surplus	0	0	0	0
Days Suitable	4.5	4.9	5.2	6.0

Field Crops Report: Corn conditions rated 6 percent very poor, 12 poor, 27 fair, 38 good, and 17 excellent. Irrigated fields rated 75 percent good or excellent while dryland fields rated 24, both below year ago levels. Ninety percent of corn was in the dough stage, ahead of last year's 85 and 83 average. Fifty-three percent of the corn had reached the dent stage, ahead of last year's 46 and 38 average.

Soybean conditions improved and rated 3 percent very poor, 13 poor, 34 fair, 41 good, and 9 excellent, below last year. Nearly all soybeans had set pods. Four percent were turning color, near last year and average.

Alfalfa conditions improved and rated 17 percent very poor, 24 poor, 33 fair, 24 good, and 2 excellent. This rating continues to be well below last year. Alfalfa third cutting was 78 percent complete, near last year and ahead of the 71 average. The August rainfall may make an additional cutting possible for some growers.

Sorghum conditions improved and rated 4 percent very poor, 9 poor, 34 fair, 42 good, and 11 excellent, which is still below last year. Ninety percent of the sorghum planted was headed. This is below last year's 94 but ahead of the 86 average. Twenty-four percent of the sorghum planted was turning color, near last year's 25 and ahead of the 19 average.

Nearly all the dry beans had set pods. Thirteen percent of the dry beans were turning color. This is ahead of last year and the average of 11. Three percent of the dry beans had started dropping leaves. This is near last year and even with the average. Dry bean conditions improved and rated 0 percent very poor, 5 poor, 24 fair, 64 good, and 7 excellent.

Crop Progress: Nebraska, Week Ending August 20, 2006

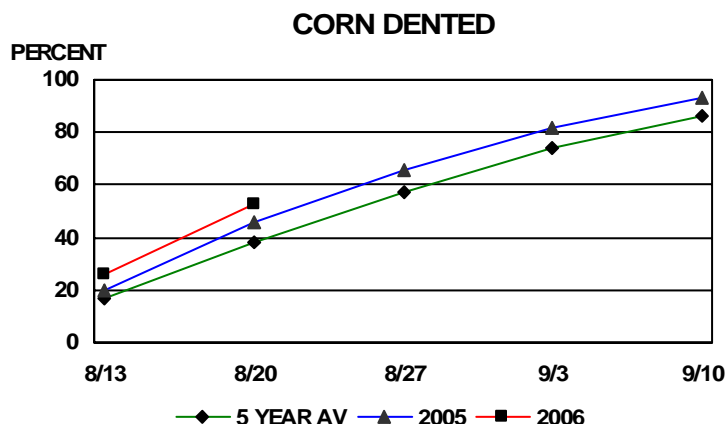
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
<i>Percent</i>				
Alfalfa 3 rd Cutting	78	65	79	71
Corn Dough	90	80	85	83
Corn Dent	53	26	46	38
Dry Beans Turning Color	13	0	11	11
Dry Beans Dropping Leaves	3	0	4	3
Sorghum Headed	90	83	94	86
Sorghum Turning Color	24	9	25	19
Soybeans Turning Color	4	0	5	6

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending August 20, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Percent</i>					
Alfalfa	17	24	33	24	2
Corn	6	12	27	38	17
Dry Beans	0	5	24	64	7
Sorghum	4	9	34	42	11
Soybeans	3	13	34	41	9

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range conditions were slowly improving and rated 32 percent very poor, 34 poor, 26 fair, 8 good, and 0 excellent. Pastures were starting to green up in some areas, but not yet producing adequate forage.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Regional Climate Center. County comments can be found at:
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/cmts_cur.htm



PROGRESS AS OF SUNDAY

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.31	.61	.97	.65	2.55	.09	1.83	3.12
Total since April 1	7.12	9.53	12.59	11.47	16.24	10.34	14.42	18.07
Normal since April 1	11.21	13.75	15.69	14.93	16.53	13.24	14.73	17.12
Total as % of normal	64%	69%	80%	76%	98%	78%	98%	105%

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	95	48	71	0	134	2124	2029
	Scottsbluff	94	55	73	+2	150	2266	2023
	Sidney	93	54	71	0	145	2189	2093
NC	Ainsworth	88	53	71	-2	146	2308	2296
	Arthur	89	53	70	-3	136	2236	2236
	O'Neill	87	53	71	-3	144	2308	2331
NE	Concord	85	54	70	-4	138	2355	2411
	Elgin	84	55	70	-3	142	2350	2374
	West Point	85	54	70	-5	140	2407	2504
C	Grand Island	87	56	71	-2	145	2494	2340
	Lexington	88	55	71	-2	148	2552	2298
	Ord	85	55	71	-2	149	2416	2328
EC	Central City	88	54	71	-3	147	2471	2381
	Lincoln	89	56	74	-2	162	2683	2563
	Mead	86	55	71	-4	140	2505	2555
SW	Champion	90	54	71	-1	147	2363	2248
	Dickens	87	54	71	-2	146	2397	2270
	McCook	91	55	73	+1	157	2521	2284
SC	Minden	88	56	71	-2	146	2500	2314
	Red Cloud	93	54	75	+1	162	2602	2363
	Smithfield	87	54	70	-3	141	2463	2303
SE	Beatrice	88	52	72	-3	155	2578	2563
	Clay Center	87	51	70	-3	142	2433	2363
	Nemaha	91	58	74	-1	168	2732	2568

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center and Nebraska State Climate Office